

## Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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R 031838Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2719

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 0544

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER: FOREIGN TRADE ACT

REF: STATE 021494

1. AFTER PALACE DINNER OFFERED BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER JAN 31 IN HONOR OF U.S. SURGEON AND CANCER SPECIALIST DR. MILLER, I CHATTED BRIEFLY WITH THE PRESIDENT ALONE. HE WAS CRITICAL OF LA REACTION TO THE FOREIGN TRADE ACT POINTING OUT THAT FOR YEARS THE LATINS HAD CLAMORED FOR LIBERALIZED TRADE. HE ATTRIBUTED THE DEGREE OF CRITICISM TO ORCHESTRATION BY VENEZUELA AND SAID THAT HE HAD NOT YET BOTHERED TO REPLY TO PRESIDENT PEREZ' LETTER. IN RESPONSE TO MY INTEREST IN THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A LETTER, HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A LONG COMMUNICATION (WHICH HE ASSUMED WAS CIRCULAR) IN WHICH THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT HAD URGED HIM TO ASSOCIATE HIMSELF PUBLICLY WITH THE GOV POSTURE CONCERNING THE TRADE ACT. BALAGUER CONTINUED THAT HE WAS TAKING A BALANCED STANCE PUBLICLY IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE LOCAL PRESS.

2. IN FACT, PRESS FEB 1 QUOTED BALAGUER AS SAYING THAT HIS  
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GOVERNMENT WAS CONTINUING TO STUDY THE EFFECTS THAT THE TRA

WOULD HAVE FOR THE COUNTRY. THERE WERE, HE ADDED, "PROVISIONS OR ASPECTS WHICH COULD CAUSE US HARM, BUT THERE ARE OTHERS THAT ARE FAVORABLE." HE INDICATED ALSO IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION THAT ANY OBJECTIONS THE GODR MIGHT HAVE TO THE LAW WOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY TO THE U.S. AND POSSIBLY THROUGH THE OAS AS WELL.

3. COMMENT: FROM OTHER CONVERSATIONS I HAVE RECENTLY HAD WITH BALAGUER, HE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HOLD PRESIDENT PEREZ IN HIGH ESTEEM. ON THE OTHER HAND, AS LONG AS VENEZUELA IS IN THE POSITION TO OFFER SOMETHING TO THE DOMREP, BALAGUER WILL AVOID OPENLY CRITICIZING VENEZUELAN ACTIONS, INCLUDING ITS ABRUPT RAISE IN PETROLEUM COSTS (WHICH HE PRIVATELY CHARACTERIZES AS THE "NEW AND REAL IMPERIALISM".) HURWITCH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRADE LAW, FOREIGN TRADE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Subject:** CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER: FOREIGN TRADE ACT  
**TAGS:** ETRD, PFOR, DR, US, (BALAGUER)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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